

June 25, 2007

To: FCC Commissioners

Re: Sirius/XM Merger

I wish to comment on the Sirius/XM merger. Frankly, I don't understand all of the great outcry against the merger claiming it would be monopolistic and, in the words of the 72 Congressional leaders who came out against the merger, it "*would create a monopoly which would be devastating to consumers*".

I assure you, this merger would not be "devastating" to me. I am a Sirius subscriber and enjoy the programming that Sirius offers. But the programming is different than XM radio and I had to make a choice as to which company I wanted to subscribe. At the current rates and incompatible radios, it wouldn't make sense to subscribe to both.

However, if the two companies merged, Mr. Karmazin promised that we could choose between the two services and take the programs from both we would desire to hear. That is a true choice as opposed to what we have now. And what if he raises rates to the point where it wouldn't be worth subscribing, as some people have suggested? I would simply cancel my service. I don't believe an intelligent businessman like Mr. Karmazin would do that because he would be out of business very soon.

I worked for AT&T during the famous 1984 breakup of the company. Again, AT&T was accused of monopolistic practices. Other companies were offering the same long distance service for cheaper rates. Now, long distance is a commodity and we can use whatever service we wish. However, long distance is long distance. It doesn't matter what service you use. You still get to speak to anyone you want at whatever time you want. Not the same with satellite radio. We can't switch back and forth to hear the programming we want to hear.

I recently heard an interview with Martine Rothblatt, the inventor of Sirius satellite radio. She said at one time, Sirius was the only satellite company out there and therefore had the full spectrum of bandwidth available. She said that when XM was created in order to increase competition, the bandwidth was split between XM and Sirius, thereby reducing the services we could hear. Martine said that by combining both services into one

company, the consumer can truly benefit by realizing more services including video by satellite.

I strongly recommend the merger of Sirius and XM radio.

John J. Veltri